



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
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Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

MAY 02 2013

Ref: 8OC

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator  
P. O. Box 33201  
Casper, WY 82602-5012

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2013, to EPA Headquarters Congressional Affairs Office on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Meeks of Pavillion, WY. The Meeks had sent you a copy of their letter to EPA regarding their concerns about the extension of the public comment period for EPA's draft report on our ongoing groundwater investigation in Pavillion.

Our Region 8 EPA office responded to Mr. and Mrs. Meeks on April 15, 2013, and a copy of that response is enclosed for your review. As our response explains, we understand the concern about the delay in the final report as a result of the extended comment period; but the additional time is necessary to make all relevant information available and to provide a thorough opportunity for public comments.

We appreciate your continued interest in our work in Pavillion and will keep your office apprised of new developments in our groundwater investigation. If you have questions or would like further information, please contact me; or your staff may wish to contact Sandy Fells, Regional Congressional Liaison, at 303-312-6604 or [fells.sandy@epa.gov](mailto:fells.sandy@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Howard M. Cantor  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure



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APR 15 2013

Re: EPR-EP

Louis and Donna Meeks  
212 W. Powerline Rd  
Pavillion, WY 82523

RE: AX-13-1318 EPA's ongoing  
Groundwater investigation near Pavillion  
Wyoming including reference to the  
Agency's recent extension of the public  
Comment period

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Meeks:

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2013 expressing your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ongoing groundwater investigation near Pavillion, Wyoming, including your reference to the Agency's recent extension of the public comment period.

As you know, earlier this year, the EPA extended the public comment period on our draft report to September 30, 2013. The EPA made this decision to allow new information to be considered as part of the public comment period and to allow the EPA to receive and address some of the comments that have been submitted to date. While we understand your concerns about this delay, it became clear that additional time was necessary to make all relevant information available and to provide a thorough opportunity for public comments.

The staff at the EPA is well aware of production well construction issues in the area, and are participating in the Pavillion well integrity working group in efforts to understand and address these concerns. While this group has not met since last fall, we hope that the recent appointment of new directors for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will enable this effort to resume soon.

The EPA, Wyoming Department of Quality, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes also remain concerned about potential health impacts and continue to work with Wyoming Rural Water as they provide drinking water to affected residents. We understand that this program does not address the need for garden irrigation and stock watering. The EPA is hopeful that a long-term solution that includes the development of a permanent water supply will address these issues as needed.

Please know that the EPA staff and managers are working to advance and resolve our investigation as soon as possible. However, this work involves several federal and state agencies, and investigations of this nature are very complex. That is why the EPA in Region 8 continues to work on this very important

groundwater investigation. We will continue to communicate information as it becomes available to you and other residents and stakeholders. Ayn Schmit and Gregory Oberley of my staff are available to work with you and answer questions that you may have. Ayn can be reached at 303-312-6220 or Schmit.ayn@epa.gov and Gregory at 303-312-7043 or Gregory.oberley@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Martin Hestmark  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Ecosystems Protection  
and Remediation

